

CHAPTER NO. 803

HOUSE BILL NO. 2919

**By Representatives Scroggs, Newton, Hargrove, Langster, McDonald, Davidson, Bone, Hood, Goins, Godsey, Todd, McDaniel, David Davis, Black, Wood, Bunch, Hagood, Buttry, Hassell, Baird, Walker, Hargett, Beavers, Maddox, Fitzhugh, Whitson, Bittle, Boyer, McCord, Odom, Montgomery, McMillan, Briley and Mr. Speaker Naifeh**

**Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 2514**

**By Senators Herron, Burks, Blackburn, Williams**

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 40, relative to victim's right to have advocate present at interviews.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 40, Chapter 38, is amended by adding the following as a new appropriately designated section:

40-38-\_\_\_\_. (a) Any victim of crime may have a crime victim advocate from a crime assistance program or a victim-witness coordinator as provided for in §8-7-206 present at any defense interviews with the victim. This section applies if practical and if the presence of the crime victim advocate or victim-witness coordinator does not cause any unnecessary delay in the investigation or prosecution of the case. The role of the crime victim advocate or victim-witness coordinator is to provide emotional support to the victim.

(b) As used in subsection (a), "crime assistance program" shall include, but not be limited to, programs which provide appropriate counseling and support to victims.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 15, 2000

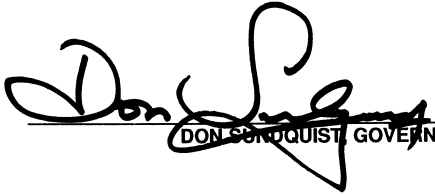


JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



JOHN S. WILDER  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May 2000



DON SUNDQUIST, GOVERNOR